

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3756

ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017

Healthcare Infrastructure

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's elemental healthcare infrastructure needs to be strengthened in view of the shortage of specialist doctors in the Community Health Centres across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) whether private hospitals continue to be more lucrative for doctors and recruiting specialists is not an easy task for the States, even though the Government is offering additional incentives to specialists, not many are coming forward to serve in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor for such situation; and
- (e) the steps being taken to attract the specialist doctors in these centres?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) to (e): As per Rural Health Statistics (RHS) 2016, there is shortage of specialist doctors in Community Health Centres (CHCs). State/UT-wise specialist doctors and shortfall thereof is at Annexure.

Public health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of specialist doctors in public health facilities lies with the State Governments. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for insourcing or engagement of specialist doctors on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Support is also provided to States/UTs for hard area allowance to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters so that they find it attractive to serve in public health facilities in such areas.

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The Government has taken various steps to increase availability of doctors and specialists in the country and also to encourage them to serve in rural and remote areas. These steps include:

- (i) The ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and 1:1 to 1:3 in subjects of Anaesthesiology, Forensic Medicine, Radiotherapy, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Psychiatry in all medical colleges across the country. Further, teacher: student ratio in public funded Government Medical Colleges for Professor has been increased from 1:2 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects and for Associate Prof. from 1:1 to 1:2 if the Associate Prof. is a unit head. This would result in increase in number of specialists in the country.
- (ii) DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- (iii) Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- (iv) Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.
- (v) relaxation in the norms of setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/bed strength and other infrastructure.
- (vi) Strengthening/upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/increase of PG seats.
- (vii) Establishment of New Medical Colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country.
- (viii) Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats.
- (ix) Strengthening of districts hospitals to run DNB/CPS courses.

Further, in order to encourage doctors to work in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India, with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide:

- (i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
- (ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Various reasons attributed for shortage of specialists in public health facilities, particularly in rural areas include overall shortage of

specialists in the country, feeling of professional isolation among specialists, and unwillingness on their part to work in rural areas.
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